

Hello,

I'm Noreen Simmons, from West Hartford, the mother of 2 children, ages 8 and 11. I was unable to go to the LOB on Wednesday, to testify in favor of more stringent gun control in CT. Despite the protests of the gun lobbyist, pro-gun legislators, some citizens, and those employed by the gun manufacturers, I believe many, many citizens are fed up with the present status quo, regarding protections for citizens in this state, regarding gun control legislation.

I strongly believe the rights to living safely trump the rights of any citizen to own any type of gun (especially automatic assault weapons), and without very thorough background checks. I also support legislation requiring gun owners to be held legally responsible for misuse of their guns and for the injury or death caused by their guns.

Yesterday, many employees of CT gun manufacturers protested, in support of "protecting their jobs", in fear of the prospect of tougher restrictions being placed on what types of guns may be allowed to be manufactured. Their jobs, as employees of gun manufacturers, should not be a valid reason for allowing these very dangerous weapons meant for military use, to be sold to the general public. I'm all for providing funds to retrain them for new jobs.

The answer to address gun violence, in my opinion, is stronger federal and state background checks, stronger control of types of guns and ammunition being produced and sold, making mental health-care more affordable and accessible, and charging gun owners with responsibility over their legally owned weapons.

I am not for abolishing gun ownership, I believe in the right of citizens to own guns, I just want to ensure that all citizens have the highest opportunity to live safely and without fear of being shot.

Please submit this for the public record of testimony,  
Noreen Simmons  
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